

Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00

AGR-20 EB-11 HEW-08 SR-02 ORM-03 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01

RSC-01 /149 W

----- 110734

R 161720Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7681

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR ASKS TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE
FROM U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 156001; (B) BAMAKO 2495

SECSTATE PASS TO DR. ADAMS

PARIS FOR RAICHT

ROME FOR FODAG

RECOMMENDATION: THAT U.S. SUPPLY 8 TEN TON TRUCKS AND 4
AMBULANCES TO ASSIST DROUGHT VICTIMS SIXTH REGION.

1. MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR, MINISTER DEFENSE DOUKARA, HAS
WRITTEN LETTER AMEMBASSY JUSTIFYING REQUEST FOR 50 HEAVY
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DUTY VEHICLES AND 30 HEAVY DUTY MILITARY AMBULANCES FOR USE

IN MALI'S SIXTH REGION. HIS ARGUMENT RESTS ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

(1) ALMOST 250,000 DROUGHT VICTIMS HAVE MOVED TO CERCLES AND ARRONDISSEMENTS IN SIXTH REGION; (2) FROM MILITARY MOTOR POOL OF 100 TRUCKS SIXTH REGION ONLY 20 VEHICLES REMAIN OPERATING CONDITION; (3) POPULATION CENTERS SIXTH REGION ARE SCATTERED; (4) DROUGHT VICTIMS COLLECTING AT ARRONDISSEMENTS AND CERCLES SEVERELY DEHYDRATED, UNDERNOURISHED, AND SERIOUSLY ILL. DOUKARA STATES IT IS QUOTE URGENT EVEN VITAL UNQUOTE THAT MORE TRANSPORT BE PROVIDED ASAP THAT IT SERVES NO PURPOSE PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE IF TRUCKING FACILITIES FROM AIRPORT LACKING.

2. COMMENT - INFORMATION RECEIVED BY EMOFFICERS FROM SIXTH REGION OFFICIALS INDICATES THAT TIMBUKTU CERCLE WITH POPULATION 80,000 TO 100,000 HAS ONLY ONE TRUCK FOR DISTRIBUTION AND THAT REGIONAL CAPITAL GAO HAS 10-15 VEHICLES. UNDOUBTEDLY CIVILIAN TRANSPORT AUGUMENTS BUT DOUKARA INSISTS PRIVATE TRUCKERS CAN'T AND WON'T USE THEIR VEHICLES FOR DESERT TRAVEL AND ONLY HEAVY DUTY ARMY VEHICLES ARE SUITABLE AND EFFICIENT. DOUKARA ALSO CLAIMS HE HAS INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY LEASING VEHICLES WEST AFRICA BUT THAT TYPE NEEDED SIXTH REGION UNAVAILABLE. EMBASSY AWARE THAT WEST GERMANS SUPPLYING 10 VEHICLES WITH 120 TON CAPACITY AND THAT GOM INTENDED PURCHASE ABOUT 30 BERLIET TRUCKS FROM FRANCE. HOWEVER, DOUKARA CLAIMS NO DONOR COUNTRY HAS YET ENTIRELY MET HIS TRANSPORT NEEDS AND THAT 50 TRUCKS REQUESTED U.S. ARE IN ADDITION TO TRANSPORT BEING OBTAINED OTHER COUNTRIES. LT. TALL COMMANDANT CERCLE TIMBUKTU HAS SAID HE COULD HANDLE GRAIN DISTRIBUTION TIMBUKTU CERCLE WITH 4 TEN/TON TRUCKS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BELIEVES NEED EXISTS FOR TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES CERCLE TIMBUKTU. SUGGEST AID GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION SUPPLYING 4 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE, FIVE TO TEN TON TRUCKS AND LEAST 2 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE ARMY AMBULANCES WITH SPARE PARTS. BELIEVE THAT SAME NUMBER TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES COULD BE JUSTIFIED FOR GAO WHICH ADMINISTRATES EASTERN ZONE SIXTH REGION. IMPORTANT EMPHASIZE DOUKARA NOT DISPOSED PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BELIEVES MORE COOPERATION MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING IF DEFINITE U.S. COMMITMENT MADE TO ASSIST WITH TRUCK AND AMBULANCE TRANSPORT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER IN ABSENCE DEFINITE PLEDGE SOME VEHICLES CONVINCED DOUKARA WILL REFUSE PROVIDE FURTHER JUSTIFICATION. SHOULD AMEMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR 8 TRUCKS AND 4 AMBULANCES BE APPROVED THEN VISIT TRANSPORT SPECIALIST GOLDING MIGHT BE PROFITABLE PIN DOWN GOM'S EXACT TRUCKING NEEDS AND TRANSPORT RESOURCES WHICH DOUKARA HAS NOT BEEN WILLING PROVIDE BEYOND GENERAL JUSTIFICATION DESCRIBED ABOVE.
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